

HOUSE BILL 7059

By Cepicky

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 8; Title 37; Title 38; Title 49; Title 62 and Chapter 367 of the Public Acts of 2023, relative to school safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 8, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) Notwithstanding another law to the contrary, if an LEA or public charter school has not adopted a policy authorizing a law enforcement officer to serve as a school resource officer at each school within the local board of education's or public charter school governing body's control, then a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction may assign at least one (1) law enforcement officer to serve as a school resource officer at the school to increase the protection and safety of students and school personnel during regular school hours when children are present on the school's premises, as well as during school-sponsored events.

(b) If a law enforcement officer is assigned to a school pursuant to subsection (a), then the chief of the law enforcement agency that assigned the law enforcement officer must notify the director of schools or the director of the public charter school and the principal of the school of:

(1) The officer's assignment;

(2) The policies of the officer's employing law enforcement agency that the officer must follow;

(3) Procedures for communication among the LEA or public charter school, officers, and local law enforcement agencies;

(4) A description of any policies, procedures, or other requirements that the officer must follow when responding to an emergency on school grounds;

(5) A procedure for addressing complaints against the officer; and

(6) The officer's assigned schedule at a school in the LEA or public charter school.

(c) An LEA or public charter school shall not impede on the duties of an officer who is assigned to a school pursuant to this section.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-4202(6), is amended by adding "or in accordance with Section 1" immediately before ";".

SECTION 3. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 49-6-815(a), is amended by adding the following as a new subdivision:

(3) A law enforcement officer assigned to a school in accordance with Section 1.

SECTION 4. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it, and applies to the 2023-2024 school year and each school year thereafter.